Act XXI of 1860 under the overall control of Governing Body to provide dwelling units for Railwaymen on 'No profit No loss' basis. Member Staff/ Railway Board and Ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India, functions as the Chairman of the Governing Body.

(b) No, Sir. These employees are not railway employees but employees of a society as indicated in reply to part (a) of the question.

(c) and (d) A committee has already been set up by the Governing Body of IRWO to review the Organisational Structure, remunerations and terms and conditions of the service of officers and staff of IRWO.

Doubling of Dehri-On-Sone-Yadnathpur railway track in Bihar

4559. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to take up the doubling of the Dehri-On-Sone-Yadnathpur Via Banjari railway track in Bihar;

(b) if so, how can it be possible as no railway track exists on this route; and

(c) if not, how the Railway Minister announced this survey programme in his Railway Budget speech on 26th February, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A survey has been taken up for construction of a new broad gauge line but it has inadvertantly been mentioned as survey for doubling in the budget speech. It is clarified that the survey is for construction of a new line. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Length and conversion of Metre Gauge Line into Broad Gauge and Cost thereof

4560. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of metre gauge network still in operation in the country;

(b) whether schemes have been prepared to convert this entire network into the broad gauge system; and

(c) in case the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, the total investment cost that will be necessary for the conversion and the period over which the work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The total length of metre gauge network (Route kilometres) still in operation on Indian Railways is 18,501 kms. (latest available figures as on 31.3.1996).

(b) Only those lines required on urgent operational and strategic considerations are proposed to be converted in a phased manner. At present only about 15,966 kms. of MG/NG lines have been identified for conversion.

(c) The details of cost of conversion of the lines identified can be known only after detailed surveys. However, 6000 kms. MG/NG lines are targetted for conversion in 9th Five Year plan.

Introduction of Shatabdi Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikkode

4561. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Shatabdi Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikkode; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.